

staff, administration, and governance in the Clarksville Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Kurt Wedeking, Sharon Markussen, Chris Fenneman, Joyce Freese and Chris Backer and former board members Paul Leerhoff, Dave Bolin, Pat Mennenga, Kim Bergman, Joe Wedeking and Dale Harris. I would also like to recognize superintendent Bob Longmuir, former superintendent Randall Nichols, former junior/high school principal Bob Saththoff, elementary principal Linda Johnson, board secretary Shellee Bartlett and former board secretary Diane Renning, StruXture Architecture and Prairie Construction.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Clarksville Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

CLINTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Clinton Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from up-

dating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Clinton Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$1 million which it used to help build a new elementary school. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves. The district also received a \$100,000 fire safety grant for repairs at Washington Middle School.

Excellent new schools like Jefferson do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Clinton Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—James Tuisl, Dave Frett, Thea Engelson, Joani Kittoe, Wendy Krajnovich, Stephen Teney and Mercia Wolfe and former board members Bruce Ingram, James Bruhn, Dr. Donald Flory, Debra Olsen, Les Shields, Alma Mariano, Brian Angwin and Jennifer Graf. I would also like to recognize superintendent Dr. Richard Basden, former superintendent Dr. Randall Clegg, business manager Gayle Isaac, plant services director Gregg Cornilsen, Jefferson principal Bonnie Freitag and former Jefferson principal Michelle Pearson.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Clinton Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

DUBUQUE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new

school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes, today, to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Dubuque Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire-safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Dubuque Community School District received a 2002 Harkin grant totaling \$260,000 which it used to help install elevators at Fulton Elementary and Bryant Elementary. The district also received three fire safety grants totaling \$654,089 to make fire alarm improvements at Dubuque Senior High School, Hempstead High School and Jefferson Junior High School and to make safety improvements at Washington Junior High School. The Federal grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Dubuque Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education president—Larry Loeppke, vice president Donna Bauerly, Mike Brannon, George Davis, Otto Krueger, Adam Menning and David Patton, and former board members Parker Bauer, Michelle Covey, Eldon Herrig, Steve Hodge, Jay Schiesl, Ed Zaccaro, Karen Behr, Doug Horstmann, Tonya Thul-Theis, Tom Barton, Cammie Dean and Ted Strieber. I would also like to recognize superintendent John Burgart, former superintendent Dr. Jane Petrek, former executive director of business services Joseph Link, former manager of building and grounds Robert S. White, Sr., former Jefferson Principal Duane Frick, former Washington principal Art Roling, former senior high principal Larry Mitchell, former Hempstead principal David Olson, former Bryant principal Lesley

Stephens and former Fulton principal Roy Hansen.

As we mark the tenth anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Dubuque Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

EMMETSBURG COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Emmetsburg Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Emmetsburg Community School District received a 2001 Harkin grant totaling \$133,333 which was used to help build an addition on an elementary school. The district has also received \$110,085 since 2000 in fire safety grants which have been used to improve the fire safety doors, alarms and smoke detectors in all their buildings. The fed-

eral grants have made it possible for the district to provide quality and safe schools for their students.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Emmetsburg Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education Karla Anderson, Dave Van Oosbree, Kent Eglund, Don Hagen, Steve Pelzer, Linda Tienter and Laurie Oppenheimer and former board members Gary Kauffman, Dean Gunderson, Mary Cooper, Mike Brown, David Kassel, Kris Ausborn and Steve Nelson. I would also like to recognize superintendent John Joynt and former superintendent Paul Tedesco.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Emmetsburg Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●

MAPLE VALLEY COMMUNITY EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year has begun. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute the dedicated teachers, administrators, and school board members in the Maple Valley Community School District, and to report on their participation in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to se-

cure a total of \$121 million for the State government in Iowa, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Maple Valley Community School District received 2002 and 2003 Harkin grants totaling \$690,000 which it used to help renovate the high school into a new elementary school. This school is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that befits the educational ambitions and excellence of this school district. Indeed, it is the kind of school facility that every child in America deserves. The district also received six fire safety grants totaling \$148,300 to install fire safety doors and update wiring and fire detection systems across the district.

Excellent schools do not just pop up like mushrooms after a rain. They are the product of vision, leadership, persistence, and a tremendous amount of collaboration among local officials and concerned citizens. I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance in the Maple Valley Community School District. In particular, I would like to recognize the leadership of the board of education—Kathy Dirksen, Ed Maier, Joanne Maynard, Dale Wimmer, and Tammy Flanigan, as well as former board member Tracy Hesse. I would also like to recognize superintendent Steve Oberg, fire marshall Amy Fratzke, grant writer Linda Steele, Heath Opfer of Radec Construction, and site architect Mike Berg of DLR Group.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra-modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals and parents in the Maple Valley Community School District. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in that community. I salute them, and wish them a very successful new school year.●